

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /077 W
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R 101445Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1135
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0848

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, EG
SUBJECT: FUTURE OF ALEXANDRIA CONSULAR CORPS DEANSHIP

1. SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL YOURI SOUSLIKOV ARRIVED IN ALEXANDRIA 7 OCTOBER 1971 AND IS VICE DEAN OF LOCAL CONSULAR CORPS. THE DEAN, BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL FRANCIS WOODALL HALL, ARRIVED 14 FEBRUARY 1971. HEW WILL RETIRE IN MAY OF 1978. HALL SUCCEDED THE CYPRIOT CONSUL GENERAL IN LATE 1975.

2. THERE HAD BEEN A FEELING WITHIN THE CONSULAR CORPS THAT SOUSLIKOV, WHO IS A TALENTED ARABIST AND HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL OTHER ARABIC LANGUAGE POSTS, WAS BEING DELIVERATELY EXTENDED AT ALEXANDRIA JUST SO THAT HE COULD BECOME DEAN OF THE CORPS AND AT LEAST GIVE USSR A LITTLE SOCIAL LEVERAGE AND EXPOSURE AT TIME OF DECLINING FORTUNES IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY RELATIONS.

3. CONSUL GENERAL HALL NOW TELLS ME HE IS SURE THAT SOUSLIKOV, WHO WENT ON HOME LEAVE 7 AUGUST, IS NOT RPT NOT RETURNING. WE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE CASE ONE YEAR BEFORE, WHEN HIS WIFE REMAINED
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IN SOVIET UNION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER HIS RETURN. SHE DID COME BACK FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BUT HAS LEFT AGAIN. HALL'S JUDGMENT IS BASED ON INTANGIBLES, BUT HE APPEARS CERTAIN.

4. THIRD IN SENIORITY, AND THEREFORE LIKELY SUCCESSOR, IS SELIM TABAT, CONSUL GENERAL OF LEBANON. HE HAS BEEN HERE FIVE YEARS IN DECEMBER. TABET HAS HAD A DIFFICULT TWO YEARS PAST, DURING

LEBANON'S CIVIL STRIFE, BUT HAS IN RECENT MONTHS REJOINED CONSULAR AND LOCAL SOCIAL CIRCUIT. MEMBER OF A PROMINENT LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FAMILY, HE HAS AN AMIABLE, BUT NOT A STRONG, PERSONALITY. HIS IS ONE OF THREE-MAN CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS OF CAREER CATEGORY (POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE THE OTHERS), IN A CORPS OF TWENTY-FOUR (EIGHT HONORARY).

5. FOR BEIRUT: - ANY INSIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON TABET'S FUTURE WOULD BE OF INTEREST.

6. COMMENT: SOVIET UNION HAS LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT HERE -- CONSUL GENERAL, THREE CONSULS, THREE VICE-CONSULS. MOST FOREIGN REPRESENTATION, CAREER OR HONORARY, IS HERE BECAUSE OF STRONG COMMERCIAL AND MERCHANT MARINE TIES. REDUCTION OF SOVIET PROMINENCE EVEN IN THIS SPHERE IS WELCOME, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AND REFLECT POLITICAL OVERTONES AS WELL. CHASE

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